

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An axial valve with a housing, an inlet, an outlet, a valve seat between the inlet and the outlet and a valve element cooperating with the valve seat, ~~which the~~ the valve element is being controlled by a pilot valve arranged between the inlet and the outlet, wherein the valve element is moveable parallel to a flow path from the ~~input inlet~~ to the output outlet, is guided by an interior surface of the housing and surrounds an interior space, characterized in that a first section of the flow path leads through the interior space, a guide is arranged in the housing between the inlet and outlet, wherein the valve element is guided by an exterior surface of the guide, and a pressure space is arranged between the housing and the valve element, in which pressure space, in the case of the pilot valve being closed, a closing pressure working on the valve element is formed.

2. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 1, further characterized in that ~~the valve element is guided by a wall of the interior space on a guide which~~ surrounds a second section of the flow path.

3. (Original) A valve according to claim 2, further characterized in that the guide is fixed to the housing.

4. (Original) A valve according to claim 1, further characterized in that the flow path runs through the valve seat.

5. (Original) A valve according to claim 1, further characterized in that the valve element on its side facing the valve seat has a closed surface.

6. (Original) A valve according to claim 1, further characterized in that the valve element is guided without seals in a housing bore.

7. (Currently Amended) A valve according to claim 1, further characterized in that the pilot valve is arranged in a connection between [[a]] the pressure space, in which prevails a pressure urging the valve element in the closing direction, and the outlet.

8. (Original) A valve according to claim 7, further characterized in that the pressure space is supplied with pressure through a seepage path which stands in connection with the interior space.

9. (Original) A valve according to claim 8, further characterized in that the seepage path is shortened upon opening of the valve.

10. (Original) A valve according to claim 7, further characterized in that a spring working in the closing direction is arranged in the pressure space.

11. (Original) A valve according to claim 2, further characterized in that the guide is arranged on the inlet side of the valve element.

12. (Original) A valve according to claim 2, further characterized in that the guide is arranged on the outlet side of the valve element.

13. (Original) A valve according to claim 12, further characterized in that the valve element has an enlarged diameter in the region of the guide.

14. (Original) A valve according to claim 12, further characterized in that the housing has a radially oriented recess in the region of the pilot valve.